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Washington, D.C. 20505

02 NOV 1984

Ms. Rebecca Moore

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Dear Ms. Moore:

Your letter of 13 October 1984 was received on 19 October 1984. We apologize for this delayed acknowledgment.

Your letter presents an appeal of determinations made in response to your Freedom of Information Act request for CIA-originated records pertaining to The House of Israel. The basis of your proffered appeal is inadequacy of the search conducted for documents responsive to your request. In support of this view, you mention that you "would expect a CIA search to turn up articles in the public domain." In addition, you mention that cables between the State Department and Georgetown (Guyana) should exist inasmuch as similar cables appear in our files in connection with the Jonestown tragedy.

In reviewing the request file, I note that your original 6 January 1982 request for "all records referring to or pertaining to The House of Israel and Rabbi Edward Emanuel Washington" (aka David Hill), was amended by your letter of 26 February 1982 to a request for "records generated within the CIA -- i.e. no newsclips -- on The House of Israel." Thus, your amended request clearly excluded both articles in the public domain and documents, such as State Department cables, which originated with other agencies.

I have also reviewed the search conducted for CIA-originated documents pertaining to The House of Israel. As you know, our 20 October 1982 letter advised you that we were proceeding with a search of records systems in the Office of Security, Central Reference and system 49 (the Directorate for Operations). Our records show that the searches conducted by these components were thorough and appropriate, and we reaffirm the results of those searches. We are, however, willing to take another look at your request to determine if other avenues of search might be appropriate.

Accordingly, your appeal has been accepted and arrangements will be made for its consideration by the CIA Information Review Committee.

You are reminded, however, that any additional search conducted pursuant to your appeal will be confined to the scope of your original request as amended, namely to CIA-originated documents pertaining to The House of Israel. If you wish to enlarge the scope to include documents in the public domain or documents which originated with other government agencies, we must ask that you submit a new FOIA request.

Our response to your appeal will be made as quickly as possible, but some delay must be expected. At the present time, we have a backlog of approximately 130 appeals awaiting completion. These are treated on a first-received, first-out basis in order to afford our requesters the most equitable treatment possible. Your understanding and patience during the interim will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

John H. Wright
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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October 13, 1984

CIA Information Review
Committee
c/o Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy
Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

LOG/APPEAL
F82-0001

OCT 19 5 50 AM '84

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

I am writing to appeal the CIA's response to my FOIA request of January 6, 1982 for agency documents on the House of Israel. I am appealing on the grounds that the CIA's search, which turned up a single document, was inadequate.

The House of Israel is a paramilitary group which operates in Guyana, South America. At the time of the Jonestown suicides in November 1978 several newspaper articles came out about the House of Israel. In subsequent years further publicity surrounded the organization in connection to internal strife in Guyana. At the very least, I would expect a CIA search to turn up articles in the public domain.

In addition, however, the State Department and the American Embassy in Georgetown exchanged cables during November 1978, and later into 1979. I believe these also mentioned publicity about the House of Israel. Since other State Department cables have appeared in CIA files in connection with Jonestown, it is logical to conclude that these cables are also in the CIA's possession.

If information regarding the House of Israel is filed under a cryptonym, I expect to be notified of the existence of the cryptonym.

Therefore, I appeal the CIA's response to my FOIA request under 5 U.S.C. 552. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore
Rebecca Moore

02 OCT 1984

Rebecca Moore

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Dear Ms. Moore:

This is a final reply to your original letter of 6 January 1982 in which you requested, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), records from the files of this Agency concerning the House of Israel.

We conducted document searches within our components and were able to locate one document, dated 12 September 1979, and have determined that it remains properly classified and cannot be declassified or released in sanitized form on the basis of the (b)(1) and (b)(3) exemptions of the FOIA. We enclose an explanation of our exemptions.

The official responsible for this determination is Mr. Louis J. Dube, Information Review Officer for the Directorate of Operations. You have the right to appeal the above decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, in my care. Should you decide to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

Search fees totaling \$241.50 have been waived per our 19 September 1982 letter to you.

Regarding your request on the subject of Congressman Leo Ryan: the request remains in process and should be completed in the near future.

We apologize for the length of time it has taken us to complete the processing of your request; we have been inundated by a large number of requests over the past several years. Under the circumstances, we have done our best to be fair to all of our requesters. Thus, we established some years ago the policy of first-received, first-answered. Thank you for your patience and consideration while we were processing your request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

Page Denied

Rebecca Moore

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Dear Ms. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of 31 March 1984 concerning your two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on:

Leo Ryan, F93-0149.

House of Israel, F82-0001.

We are pleased to advise that both of your requests are actively being processed. Although we cannot anticipate the time required to complete your requests, it should be relatively short as compared to the time you have already waited.

In the meantime, as you requested, we are enclosing a copy of our 1983 FOIA report to Congress. There will be no copying charge for this report since the cost falls below the \$6 threshold at which we begin to assess fees. We hope this report will be of assistance to you.

We will be in touch with you on each of your requests when completed.

Sincerely,

**/s/ Larry R. Strawderman
Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator**

Enclosure

STAT

March 31, 1984

STAT

Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

Thank you for your letter of February 6 regarding my Freedom of Information Act requests with the CIA concerning Leo Ryan (F83-0149) and the House of Israel (F82-0001).

Would you kindly tell me where my request falls in the current backlog of 3200 inquiries?

Additionally, would you send me a copy of the CIA's 1983 Report to Congress? I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

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APR 11 9 57 AM '84

8 FEB 1984

Rebecca Moore

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Dear Ms. Moore:

This is in response to your recent letter in which you inquired as to the status of your two Freedom of Information Act requests on Leo Ryan (our control number 283-0149) and the House of Israel (our control number 282-0001).

To be fair to all requesters, every request we receive is processed within each of the records systems searched on a first-in, first-out basis. To do otherwise would be to show preferential treatment to certain individuals, and the Agency must strive to treat all requesters equally.

I trust you can appreciate our problems in dealing with approximately 3200 individual information inquiries, our current backlog. Rest assured that your request has been placed in the proper channels, and that we will be in touch with you promptly when our processing is completed. In the meantime your patience and understanding will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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JAN 17 12 25 PM '84

Rebecca Moore

January 7, 1984

Mr. Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman:

Would you please give me the status of the following Freedom of Information requests I have made with the CIA?

- 1) The late Rep. Leo Ryan -- request made February 23, 1983; and
- 2) The House of Israel -- request made January 6, 1982.

If your agency has not started processing these requests, would you please tell me when you anticipate it will begin?

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

20 OCT 1982

Rebecca Moore

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Dear Ms. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of 22 September 1982 concerning your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Specifically you asked for CIA-originated documents on the House of Israel.

Based on your letters of 22 September 1982 and 19 March 1982 we will proceed to search records systems in the Office of Security, Central Reference and records in system 49. We wish to remind you that the system 49 search may require considerable time as we pointed out in our letter of 13 July 1982. If you wish to exclude system 49 from our search please advise us promptly, otherwise we will proceed as planned.

The heavy volume of some 2,300 information requests such as yours currently being processed by the Agency has created processing backlogs. Also, we process all requests on a first-in, first-out basis. Since we will not be able to respond within the 10 working days stipulated by the Freedom of Information Act, it is your right to construe this as a denial, subject to appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee. It would seem more reasonable, however, for us to continue processing your request and respond as soon as feasible. Unless we hear from you otherwise, we will assume this is agreeable to you and proceed on this basis.

Sincerely,

/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator

ILLEGIB

SEP 27 3 04 PM '82

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September 22, 1982

Mr. Larry R. Strawderman
Information & Privacy Co-ordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman

Thank you for your letter of September 9 concerning my Freedom of Information request on the House of Israel.

Under the conditions you outlined in that letter, I am willing to pay the reduced search fees. Your offer to waive fees altogether if no information can be released is generous. If you determine that any information you have on the House of Israel can be released, I hope you will reconsider my request for a total fee waiver at that time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

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Rebecca Moore

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Dear Ms. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of 16 August 1982 concerning your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for CIA-originated documents on the House of Israel.

To answer your question in item 1, our Office of Security and the Office of Central Reference (OCR) were tasked for fee estimates which totaled \$42.50. The records in OCR consist principally of raw unevaluated reports and finished reports, namely, studies and periodicals.

With regard to item 2, you are essentially correct. However, having reviewed your letter of 25 June 1982 again and in concert with prevailing guidelines, I have decided to reduce search fees by 50 percent at this time.

If any releasable information is located, that information and your request will be reviewed in conjunction with the rules and regulations governing the waiver of fees as published in the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR Title 32, Chapter XIX, Section 1900.25(a)] as well as relevant Department of Justice guidelines.

We will consider a further reduction or waiver of the remaining fees if, as the result of your request, information is released that is found to be significantly useful or otherwise beneficial to the public. Under the above criteria, your request does not warrant a total waiver of fees at this time. In the interest of being fair, however, we will not charge you any fees should no releasable information be located.

Please advise us of your decision concerning your FOIA request. We are taking no further action on it pending your reply.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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AUG 20 3 32 PM '82

August 16, 1982

STAT

Mr. Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman;

Thank you for your letter of July 13, 1982, concerning my Freedom of Information request on the House of Israel. I have a couple of questions I'd like you to answer before I make a decision on your proposals to expedite my request.

(1) You state that records system 49 is the system which has created the biggest backlog in processing FOI requests, that it is the most expensive component of the records search, and that the bulk of the records in the system have to be withheld from disclosure anyway. You go on to say that the other components of the system have fee estimates of \$42.50. Would you tell me how many other components there are and what records are in each of those components?

(2) I'm afraid I do not understand what your response to my request for a fee waiver is. On the one hand, you "propose to examine [my] fee waiver request in light of any information surfaced and found releasable." On the other hand, in the same paragraph, you state that I will be charged search fees "if [your] search results are negative, if all records surfaced are deemed not releasable, or if the information located is duplicative of that already in the public domain." Does this mean you will grant my fee waiver if you turn up releasable information, or that turning up releasable information is a pre-condition, but not necessarily a compelling one, to consider my fee waiver? In any event, it appears that you are asking to defer a decision on my fee waiver request until after the search, which essentially commits me to an agreement to pay all fees.

Would you let me know if my understanding on your position on my fee waiver request is correct? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

13 JUL 1982

STAT

Dear Ms. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of 25 June 1982 concerning your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

You may wish, in order to avoid a search that might involve records from our records system 49, to limit your request, at least initially, to just that information that might be contained in other records systems. Records system 49, which is composed primarily of internal operational correspondence and raw, unevaluated disseminations, is our most backlogged system. Requests involving records in this system often take up to two or more years to process, and the records are usually so sensitive and fragmented that the bulk of them have to be withheld.

Please also be advised that records system 49 is the most expensive component to search. The other components have fee estimates totaling \$42.50, therefore, you may want to consider pursuing your request with these components only. Please advise us of your decision.

We note that you have asked for a fee waiver. Since we have no way of knowing at this time what information, if any, we may possess, we propose to examine your fee waiver request in light of any information surfaced and found releasable. In this regard, please be advised that in accordance with section (e) of our fee schedule (enclosed), fees are assessable even if no records are found, or, if found, they are deemed not releasable. Therefore, you will be charged search fees if our search results are negative, if all records surfaced are deemed not releasable, or if the information located is duplicative of that already in the public domain.

We are taking no further action on your case pending your reply.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

STAT

JUN 29 3 08 PM '82

Rebecca Moore

STAT

June 25, 1982

Mr. John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Co-ordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bacon;

In response to your letter of May 28, in which you itemized the fees you estimated for my Freedom of Information request for all CIA-originated documents on the House of Israel, I would like to request a fee waiver.

The Freedom of Information Act states that while an agency may charge "reasonable" fees for locating and copying documents, it can also waive those fees if "furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefitting the public." I believe my request meets all standards for such a waiver.

Four years ago, 913 Americans belonging to a religious community died in Guyana. Prior to the suicides in Jonestown, Peoples Temple was investigated by several federal agencies over allegations of gun-running and customs violations. There were also rumors of violence within the community and of links between Peoples Temple and the host government of Guyana. Following the suicides, there were new rumors, to the effect that Jonestown was a CIA-sponsored mind control experiment, and that its leader, Jim Jones, was a CIA agent.

Even while Jonestown flourished, there was another religious community in Guyana inhabited by Americans. That community, the House of Israel, is the subject of this FOI request. Many of the same rumors abound about the community's relationship with the Guyana government and our own government through the CIA.

The death of Jonestown was a tragedy without parallel in the last ten years. In considering the benefit to the public in releasing information about the House of Israel, I believe you should recognize the similarities between the two religious

Mr. John E. Bacon

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June 25, 1982

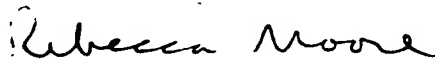
communities and understand that any information in your agency's files about the second group should be made available while it still exists.

The legislative history of the fee waiver provision calling for a liberal interpretation of the phrase "primarily benefitting the public", suggests that all fees should be waived when the person requesting the information is doing so for the purpose of contributing to the public's knowledge, understanding and debate of an important issue. I plan to give the widest dissemination possible to whatever information I receive.

In the event you deny my request for a waiver, I ask that you reduce your fees. Asking for a commitment to pay a minimum of \$192.50 for a search which, as you noted, may turn up no releasable information, cannot be construed as "reasonable" within the meaning and spirit of the 1974 amendments to the Freedom of Information Act. As the House-Senate conference report (#93-1380, p. 8) said, "The conferees intend that fees should not be used for the purpose of discouraging requests for information or as obstacles to disclosure of requested information."

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Moore

28 MAY 1982

STAT

Rebecca Moore

Dear Ms. Moore:

This is an interim reply to your revised request of 12 March 1982 for information from the files of this Agency under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, we are referring to your request for CIA-originated documents on the House of Israel.

As we indicated in our 5 April 1982 letter to you, we were obtaining an estimate of costs that would probably be incurred in complying with your request. The estimate is as follows:

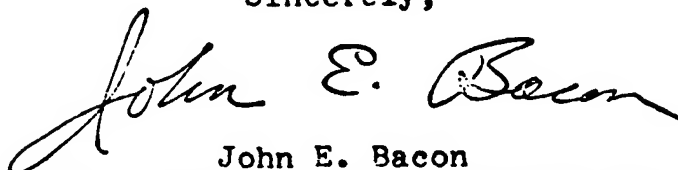
7 on-line computer searches @\$11	77.00
1 computer search equaling 10 minutes of CPU time @\$8 per minute	80.00
1 1/4 hours of professional search time @\$14 per hour	17.50
3 hours of clerical search time @\$6 per hour	18.00
TOTAL	<u>\$192.50</u>

Please be advised that the search fees noted above are those anticipated when there are few, if any, documents identified. Should the number of documents identified during our initial search grow, the number of secondary and tertiary searches necessitated will also grow. Therefore, the actual search costs may, in fact, be much larger than those above.

Please advise us of your decision concerning the above costs. We wish to advise you again that fees are assessable even if no records are found, or, if found, they are deemed not releasable. Therefore, you will be charged search fees if our search results are negative or if all records surfaced are deemed not releasable.

We are taking no further action on your request pending your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John E. Bacon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Coordinator

STAT

05 APR '82

STAT

Rebecca Moore

Dear Ms. Moore:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 19 March 1982 concerning your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. We note your willingness to accept charges up to \$100. In view of this limit, I have requested estimates of search fees from the components most likely to hold information pertinent to your request.

We should have the fee estimates from the components in the near future and will be in further communication with you at that time. In the meantime, we are placing your request in suspense.

Sincerely,


John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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Lifted!

MAR 25 3 34 PM '82

STAT

March 19, 1982

Mr. John E. Bacon
Information & Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I am willing to pay up to \$100.00 for a search and photocopying of CIA files for CIA-originated documents on the House of Israel.

Please notify me if you anticipate the cost will exceed that amount. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

12 MAR 1982

Rebecca Moore

STAT


Dear Ms. Moore:

This acknowledges your letter of 26 February 1982 wherein you refined your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Specifically, you are now requesting CIA-originated documents on the House of Israel.

Please be advised that we cannot commence a search on this group until we have your commitment in advance to pay for all search and copying fees as we indicated to you in our letter of 21 January 1982.

We shall await your response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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Feb 27 '82

STAT

February 26, 1982

Mr. John E. Bacon
Information & Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bacon:

I would like to limit my Freedom of Information Act request of January 6, 1982, to cover only those records generated within the CIA -- i.e., no newspaper clippings -- on the House of Israel.

If the CIA has any such records, they will include information on Rabbi Emanuel Washington, a.k.a. David Hill. Because Rabbi Washington is the acknowledged leader of the House of Israel and, as a consequence, a public figure, I do not believe the Privacy Act information you requested is necessary.

To expedite your search, the House of Israel is a religious/paramilitary group located in Guyana, South America.

Thank you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore

21 JAN 1982

Rebecca Moore

STAT

Dear Ms. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of 6 January 1982 in which you requested information from the files of this Agency under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, you asked for information on the House of Israel and Rabbi Edward Emanuel Washington, also known as David Hill.

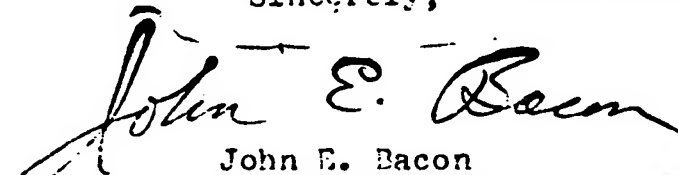
Before we can conduct a meaningful search of our files under the name of an individual, we need to have a full name and basic biographic data. At the very least, we need a date and place of birth and nationality. Without such information, it will be difficult or impossible for us to distinguish between different individuals with the same or similar names. In addition, we would like to have a signed and notarized statement authorizing us to release personal information which otherwise would have to be withheld in the interest of protecting the privacy of the individual. In most cases, without such an authorization, we would probably be unable to send you much more than is already in the public domain, such as newsclips and the like.

Also, before we can conduct a search of our files, we will need your commitment in advance to pay for all search and copying fees. A copy of the Agency's schedule of fees for services provided under the FOIA is enclosed. Please notify us of your willingness to accept responsibility for all charges incurred in processing your request. Be advised that all fees must be paid, even if our records searches uncover no relevant documents, or if the documents found are deemed nonreleasable.

Upon receipt of your agreement, I shall arrange for a search of CIA files and shall be in further communication with you once the search has been completed and any records found have been reviewed for relevance and releasability under the Act. The running time of your request will not commence until we are in receipt of your written commitment to pay all fees.

We shall await your further instructions. Thank you for your patience and consideration.

~~Sincerely,~~


John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

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JAN 13 9 10 AM '82

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January 6, 1982

Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Sir or Ms.:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act,
5 U.S.C. 552.

I hereby request all documents referring or pertaining to
The House of Israel, Rabbi Edward Emanuel Washington,
also known as David Hill.

Rabbi Washington is a U.S. citizen residing in Georgetown,
Guyana, South America, so I also request all CIA records
on Guyana as they relate or pertain to Rabbi Washington.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moore

Rebecca Moore